

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:LTCRTHOMPSON

APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:ACFLOYD

EUR/RPM:EREHFELD:WROMINE

OASD/ISA:RJEFFERSON

ODDPA AND E:HGAFFNEY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, IT

SUBJECT: COMMON FUNDING OF WAR RESERVE STOCKS -- ITALIAN
PROPOSAL

REFS: A. STATE 204111; B. DRC/N(73)16; C. USNATO 5365

1. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE FOR YOUR USE IN COMMENTING
ON ITALIAN PROPOSAL IN REF B.

A. TIMING. WE BELIEVE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE NATO'S WAR
RESERVE STOCKS SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED IN THE CURRENT EWG
STUDY OF THIS SUBJECT. ADDITIONAL EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD
MUST AWAIT AGREEMENT ON SUCH BASIC ISSUES AS CONSUMPTION/
ATTRITION RATES, OPTIMUM MUNITIONS MIX, AND IMPROVED
REPORTING PROCEDURES, ALL OF WHICH ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY
THE EWG.

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B. ADDING SEVEN DAYS OF STOCKS TO AGREED 30-DAY STOCK LEVELS. WE WOULD FAVOR ADDING ADDITIONAL STOCKS TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE QTE INSURANCE UNQTE LEVEL. NATO'S STOCKPILE GOAL SHOULD BE A LEVEL OF NO LESS THAN 30 DAYS BUT ADEQUATE TO ENSURE THAT ITS MUNITIONS SUSTAINING SUPPORT CAPABILITY IS MORE THAN THE WARSAW PACT IS ADJUDGED TO HAVE.

C. ASSIGNING STOCKS TO AN ALLIED COMMANDER AND GRANTING HIM REALLOCATION AUTHORITY. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY AT SOME LATER DATE.

D. COMMON FUNDING FOR STOCKS. THE US IS OPPOSED TO COMMON FUNDING FOR LOGISTIC STOCKS. OUR OPPOSITION TO THIS APPROACH APPLIES NOT ONLY TO THE ITALIAN PROPOSAL, BUT ALSO TO THE USE OF THIS METHOD TO CORRECT THE DEFICIENCIES IN WAR RESERVE STOCK LEVELS OF VARIOUS NATO ALLIES. IN CORRECTING NATIONAL STOCK LEVELS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THOSE NATO ALLIES NOW RECEIVING GRANT AID MAY NEED SOME ASSISTANCE IN ATTAINING DESIRABLE STOCK LEVEL OBJECTIVES; HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED UNDER THE CONCEPTS OF SELF-HELP AND LOGISTICS SPECIALIZATION RATHER THAN GRANT AID OR COMMON FUNDING BY ALL NATO ALLIES.

E. COMMON FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. WE BELIEVE THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE FORUM TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSAL FOR COMMON FUNDING FOR R AND D. WE DO NOT BELIEVE SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO NATO.

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